Indiana Collection
BLACK OAK
Annexation

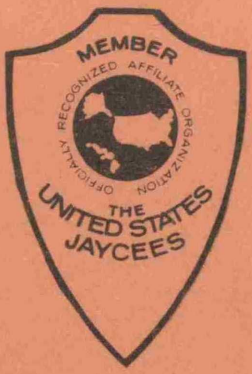
THE BLACK OAK-ROSS JAYCEES

present

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

on the

INCORPORATION OF LAKE RIDGE



A Publication of the
Black Oak-Ross Jaycees

Forward

The United States Jaycees, a national organization of young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five has constantly stood for community awareness.

We, the Black Oak-Ross Jaycees, feel that our community should have a clear understanding of our movement to incorporate the Lake Ridge area into a town. This booklet will serve to answer many questions regarding the incorporation.

Jaycee Creed

We believe:
That faith in God gives meaning
and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man
transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won
by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be
of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure
lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity
is the best work of life.

General Information

Q. What are the proposed boundaries of the town of Lake Ridge?
A. The boundaries are the same as the boundaries of the Lake Ridge School District. The map on the back cover shows the proposed boundaries.

Q. Why should the community of Lake Ridge Incorporate?
A. To enjoy the benefits of self-determination, localized government, state tax reimbursements and federal monies,as well as the fostering of community pride.

Q. Why can't we stay unincorporated?
A. A large tax revenue Village Shopping Center has been asked for annexation by the city of Gary. We need our business in our community; not in Gary paying Gary Taxes. Some of our area would also be annexed making those people pay Gary high taxes.

Q. How does an area incorporate?
A. The Indiana Ordinance 48-131 states "The board of commissioners of a county may,by ordinance,incorporate towns pursuant to the provisions of sections 201 through 209..."

Q. What must be done to proceed with incorporation?
A. A petition must be filed with the county commissioners which contains:
1. A survey of boundaries and land contained.
2. An enumeration of the residents,resident landowners and non-resident landowners.
3. A statement of the assessed evaluation.
4. A statement of the services to be provided.
5. A statement of the estimated costs of these services.
6. The name of the proposed town.

Q. What has the incorporating committee done so far?
A. A petition has been filed, containing all the necessary information by our legal counsel Mr.Bernard Tetek with the Lake County Commissioners January 7, 1972.

Q. Who is on the Incorporation Committee?
A. The President, Henry Ensweiler, Jr.; Vice-President, Mrs. Gene Bennett; Secretary, Mrs. Howard Geib;Treasurer, Mr. Walter Arndt. Every organization from the area has been asked to send representatives.

Q. Will the Lake Ridge School District be changed in any way if we incorporate?
A. The Lake Ridge School District will not be changed because it is a separate entity.

Benefits to be Provided

Q. What services will the town of Lake Ridge provide?
A. Fire Department; Police Department; Parks and recreation:Stream and Pollution Control;Street maintenance and lighting; Planning and Zoning;Civil Defense, Little Calumet River Basin Association; Sewer Fund.

Q. How long would it be before we receive the benefits of our town?
A. As soon as funds are available from the state reimbursement taxes and our local taxes.

Q. If any money is left from the Incorporation Fund, where will it go?
A. The remaining funds, if any, will go into the Lake Ridge Town General Fund for the benefit of the entire community.

Q. Will our town have an Underwriter's Rated Fire Department?
A. Yes, causing fire insurance premiums for everyone to be substantially reduced.

Q. Will the sheriff's department still serve our area?
A. Yes, but in addition to our own police department.

Q. What kind of police department are we going to have?
A. A Metropolitan Police department governed by a board of 3 police commissioners;17 police;(1 chief;1 lieutenant; 4 sergeants; 1 detective; 10 patrol men)and 11 crossing guards.

Government

Q. What type of government will we have and why?
A. Lake Ridge will have a town form of government as it is the most economical form of government for its size.

Q. Who runs the town government?
A. An elected board of town trustees and a Clerk-Treasurer.

Q. How are the town trustees elected?
A. The Indiana Government states how the trustees shall be elected in Ordinance 48-144: "The elective officers of every town shall be one trustee from each ward and a clerk-treasurer for the town at large. Each trustee must reside in the ward from which he runs, but may be elected by the vote of the voters within his ward or at large..."

Q. How many town trustees shall their be?
A. Indiana Ordinance 48-139: "....The ordinance shall divide the area of the proposed town into not less than three nor more than seven wards,.....equitable distribution of the population of the area among the wards and shall appoint a resident inspector..."

Budget

Q. What is the general content of the proposed budget?

A.

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET
Fire Department	$101,100.00
Stream Pollution & Control	5,300.00
Parks & Recreation	40,700.00
Street maintenance & Lighting	219,000.00
Planning & Zoning	13,200.00
Civil Defense	8,000.00
Little Cal. River Basin Assn.	1,500.00
Police Department	267,650.00
Police Pension Fund	5,000.00
Cost of town services: salaries, clerical, clerk-treasurer, town hall, management & services	69,500.00
Cumulative funds:	
Sewer	125,000.00
Capital Improvement	86,000.00
Fire Equipment & Property	15,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	$956,950.00
OUTSIDE REVENUE FROM STATE	416,000.00
Monies from civil rate	$540,950.00

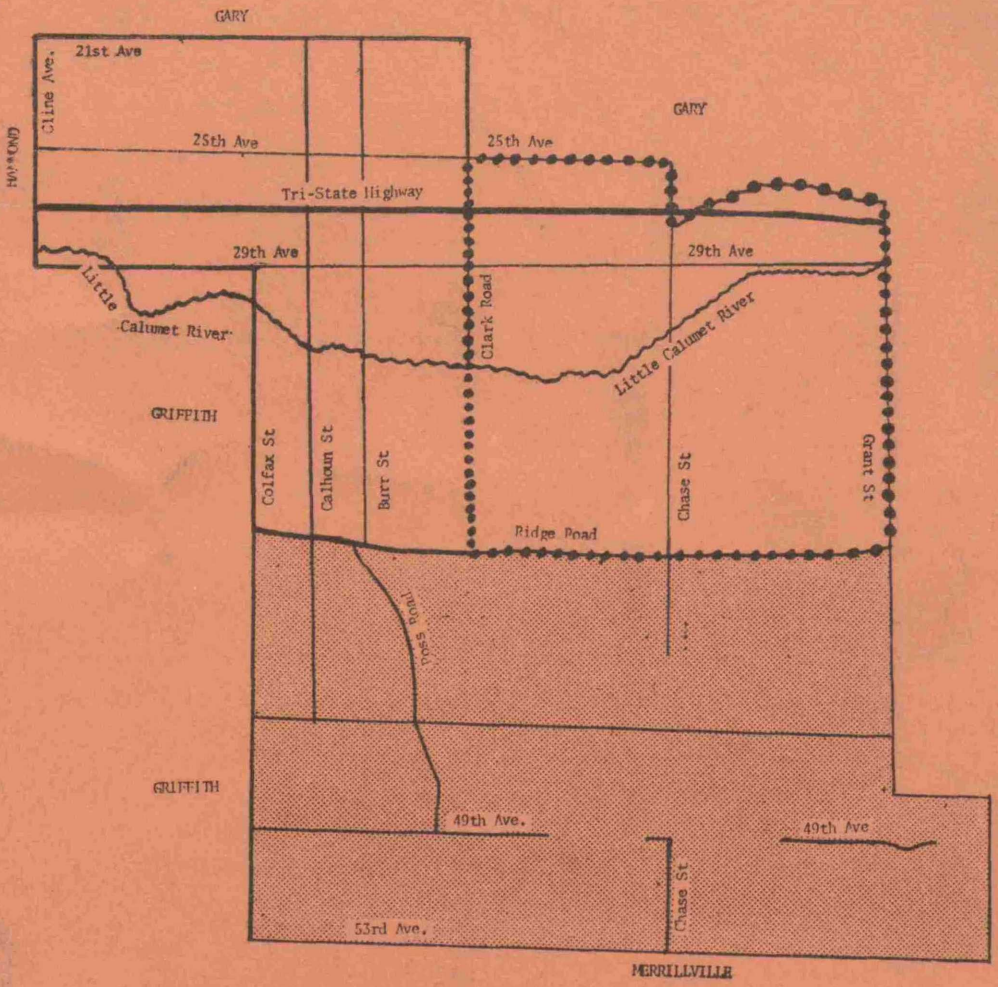
Conclusion

We hope that this brochure has answered some of your questions in regard to the incorporation of the Lake Ridge area into the town of LAKE RIDGE. We strongly feel that small towns work better than large cities, with their large government bureaucracies and very large budgets, where the average citizen is lost in obscurity and where discontent often results in high crime rates.

We, the Black Oak-Ross Jaycees, agree with the Lake Ridge Incorporating Committee that the citizens of our community would best be served by incorporating into a town. We urge you to attend the public hearing at the Lake County Court House, in Crown Point, Indiana, on March 20th, 1972 at 2:00 P.M., in order to show and voice your support of the incorporation.

Our town of Lake Ridge will have a small town government structure with a civil rate of only $2.57 per 100 dollars assessed evaluation.

THE MAP ON THE BACK PAGE SHOWS THE COMBINED TOTAL AREAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR INCORPORATION.



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